

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00774 311438Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /087 W
-----022111 010320Z /14

R 311400Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5537
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0774

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, LY, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS LIBYA

REF: TRIPOLI 0754 (NOTAL)

1. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MARCELINO OREJA PAID
A SHORT VISIT TO LIBYA MAY 27-28 AS PART OF HIS
AFRICAN TOUR TO DISCUSS THE CANARY ISLANDS ISSUE.
OREJA MET WITH BOTH QADHAFI AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
TURAYKI AND CARRIED A PERSONAL LETTER FOR THE FORMER
FROM KING JUAN CARLOS WHICH REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED AN
EARLIER INVITATION TO THE LIBYAN LEADER TO VISIT
SPAIN. LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARY WAS WARM AND STRESSED
STRONG HISTORICAL LINKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE ARAB
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WORLD. RADIO TRIPOLI ALSO QUOTED OREJA AS INDICATING
SPAIN WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE OR ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

2. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR INFORMED CHARGE
THAT QADHAFI GAVE OREJA STRONG ORAL ASSURANCES THAT
LIBYA RESPECTS SPAIN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. AMBASSADOR

ADDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER -- WHILE PLEASED WITH QADHAFI'S STATEMENT -- IN NO WAY REGARDS IT AS IRONCLAD.

3. COMMENT. WHATEVER ASSURANCES QADHAFI GAVE TO OREJA, SPAIN CAN BE SURE THAT LIBYA WILL ASSIST HER ON THE CANARY ISLANDS ISSUE ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPANISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IN ANY EVENT, WHILE QADHAFI MAY NOT BE IN ACCORD WITH BOUMEDIENE ON THIS QUESTION, LIBYAN INFLUENCE ON THEIR ALGERIAN NEIGHBORS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IS PROBABLY MINIMAL.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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